



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO HOLD HOUSING SEMINAR TO ASSIST HURRICANE AFFECTED AREAS

ANGLETON, TEXAS, April 19, 2006—Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, has announced the availability of loans and grants to assist homeowners in counties affected by Hurricane Rita. These funds may be used to purchase or repair homes in the 32 counties included in the Presidential declaration resulting from the hurricane. Assistance available for rural residents can help with the purchase or construction of homes, through the agency's direct and guaranteed programs, and can help with the repair and rehabilitation of homes.

"USDA Rural Development is proud of the assistance we have available for rural residents affected by Hurricane Rita," said Daniel. These additional funds recently expanded eligibility to towns in east and southeast Texas, including Orange County. USDA Rural Development has temporary authority to allow the population limits to be waived for a period of three years from the date of declaration.

In order to provide information regarding housing assistance, representatives of USDA Rural Development will be holding a housing seminar on Saturday, April 29, 2006 at the Thomen Community Center, 1413 N. 20th, Orange, Texas from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Representatives of USDA Rural Development will be available to provide information and assist individuals in completing applications. Applicants that have an income below 80% of the area median income for a direct homeownership loan, or below 115% of the area median income for a guaranteed homeownership loan are eligible to apply.

For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Angleton Local Office at (979) 849-5251, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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